Dkt. No.: OP-095000281PCT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A shelf connector, comprising:

a sliding sleeve (1) formed with a locking body (12), the locking body (12) provided with an open groove (11) along the axial direction of the sliding sleeve (1), the locking body (12) provided on both sides of the open groove (11) with a clasping portions portion (12a/12c), at least one introducing section (12b) being provided on the sliding sleeve (1) above the clasping portions (12a/12c); and

a locking sleeve (2) having a <u>single</u> locking groove (21), a for reducing the width of the open groove (11) being urged to reduce by after the insertion of the clasping portion (12a/12c) into the locking grove groove (21), wherein a width of the locking groove (21) is slightly smaller than a width of the clasping portions (12a/12c), the sliding sleeve (1) is an open structure for directly clasping on a supporting rod (3), an inner wall of the sliding sleeve (1) opposite to the open groove (11) is axially provided with a hinge (13) functioning as a shaft-and-pin mechanism, the inner wall of the sliding sleeve (1) adjacent to the hinge (13) is axially provided with a rib (15) for positioning the opening and closing actions of the hinge (13).

- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Original) The shelf connector according to claim 1, wherein the locking body (12) is a protruding portion extending outwardly in the axial direction of the sliding sleeve (1).
- 4. (Withdrawn) The shelf connector according to claim 1, wherein the sliding sleeve (1) is formed into a closed structure for connecting on a supporting rod (3), the inner wall of the hole (10) encircling the sliding sleeve (1) is provided intermittently with positioning ribs (14), the inner diameter of the positioning rib (14) is slightly smaller than the outer

Dkt. No.: OP-095000281PCT

diameter of the supporting rod (3), the outer wall of the supporting rod (3) is formed with positioning grooves (31) for elastically engaging with the ribs (14).

5. (Currently amended) The shelf connector according to claim 1, wherein the sliding sleeve (1) is formed into an open structure for clasping on a supporting rod (3), the inner wall of the sliding sleeve (1) opposing to the open groove (11) is axially provided with a hinge (13) functioning as a shaft-and-pin mechanism; wherein:

the inner wall of the sliding sleeve (1) is circumferentially and intermittently provided with positioning ribs (14), the inner diameter of each of the positioning ribs (14) is slightly smaller than the outer diameter of the supporting rod (3), [[the]]an outer wall encircling of the supporting rod (3) is formed with positioning grooves (31) for elastically engaging with the positioning ribs (14); and wherein

the inner wall of the hole (10) of the sliding sleeve (1) adjacent to the hinge (13) is axially provided with a rib (15) for positioning the opening and closing actions.

- 6. (Withdrawn) The shelf connector according to claim 1, wherein the inner wall of the hole (10) encircling the sliding sleeve (1) is provided with a layer of soft rubber (16), or the whole inner wall of the hole (10) is a rough surface.
- 7. (Withdrawn) The shelf connector according to claim 1, wherein the clasping portion is a protruding clasping portion (12c), the locking groove (21) is provided with a locking edge (210) for restricting the movement of the locking sleeve (1) along the radial direction of the sliding sleeve (1) after the locking sleeve (2) is inserted into the protruding clasping portion (12c).
- 8. (Original) The shelf connector according to claim 1, wherein the locking sleeve (2) is a flat plate, arc plate or angled plate, the locking groove (21) is arranged in a vertical or

Dkt. No.: OP-095000281PCT

transverse direction of the locking sleeve (2), and the opening of the locking groove is provided in an upward, downward, leftward or rightward orientation.

- 9. (Original) The shelf connector according to claim 1, wherein the locking sleeve (2) is a rod, and the locking groove (21) is formed by means of bending the rod.
- 10. (Currently amended) The shelf connector according to claim 8, wherein a sleeve seat (22) is provided between the locking sleeve (2) and the frame body of the shelf, and the sleeve seat (22) is formed into a plate or rod.
- 11. (Currently amended) The shelf connector according to claim 9, wherein a sleeve seat (22) is provided between the locking sleeve (2) and the frame body of the shelf, and the sleeve seat (22) is formed into a plate or rod.